GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5293
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014
COACH FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any statistical survey of senior citizens and seriously ill passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have any proposals to attach a separate coach in long distance train with tailor-made facilities for safe and comfortable journey of the above said passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. However, during the year 2013-14, 8.54 Crore senior citizens and 21.57 lakh patients (including attendant) availed concessions provided for these two categories of travellers. The revenue foregone due to concessions in passenger fare for senior citizens and patients were Rs.932.73 crores and Rs.59.31 crores respectively.

(c) to (e): No, Madam. There is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, the following reservation facilities in trains have been provided to senior citizens, patients and disabled persons:-

(i) In all trains having reserved accommodation, a combined quota of two lower berths per coach has been earmarked in Sleeper, AC-3 tier and AC-2 tier for senior citizens, Female passengers of 45 years of age and above and pregnant women when travelling alone.

(ii) A reservation quota of two Sleeper class berths has been earmarked in all trains running on non-suburban section for handicapped persons and their attendants performing journey on handicapped concessional ticket.

(iii) Specially designed unreserved coaches known as SLRD coaches are also attached for physically handicapped persons in a large number of long distance Mail/Express trains.

(iv) Some berths are set aside for patients ailing from cancer and their companions under the Cancer patient quota provided on a large number of Mail/Express trains.

(v) Direct access to limited number of berths earmarked under Emergency Quota has also been extended to Cancer Patients and their attendants travelling on concession.